

Unit E – Upper Friday Alpine

Unit Description

This unit encompasses state lands within Township 16N, R 5 & 6E, T 17N, R 5 & 6E, and T 18N, R 6E, Seward Meridian as depicted on Map 3-1, *Knik River Management Plan Units* pp 3 - 3. The dominant feature of this unit is the rugged alpine of the Upper Friday and Metal creeks drainages.

Land Ownership

There are approximately 76,014 acres of state land within the Upper Friday Alpine Unit. See Map 1-2 on pp. 1 - 5 for generalized land status of the planning area and surrounding lands.

Access

The Knik Glacier Trail (RST 17) provides access adjacent to this unit. A few user created trails provide access from the Knik Glacier Trail (RST 17). Four un-maintained gravel airstrips are located in this unit.

Recreational Use

This unit receives low levels of use primarily related to hunting, hiking, wildlife viewing, and climbing. Motorized does not occur with the exception of the airplane use of airstrips.

Fisheries Habitat

Tributaries of Metal Creek and the headwaters of Friday Creek are the primary waterbodies. Fisheries habitat is absent. No waterbodies are catalogued by ADFG as anadromous. See Appendix B, Map B-1 for a depiction of those streams and waterbodies included in ADFG's catalogue of waters important for the spawning, rearing, or migration of anadromous fish.

Wildlife Habitat

Wildlife habitat consists of sub-Alpine and Alpine environments. The lower elevations are forested while the higher elevations are rock and scree.

Dall sheep are commonly found from the vegetated sub-alpine to alpine environments. Mountain goat habitat is located at the higher elevations. Moose utilize the alpine and sub-alpine habitat during snow-free periods for feeding and rearing. Bear habitat encompasses the entire unit. Small game species such as rabbit and spruce grouse and ptarmigan can be found in the vegetated areas. See wildlife habitat maps in Appendix B.

Commercial Use

This unit receives low levels of commercial use. Currently, two land use authorizations have been issued by DNR for a commercial guide camp facilities.

Facilities

Other than the un-maintained airstrips, facilities do not exist.

Trails and Easements

A few user-created trails exist; however, no developed or managed trails exist at this time.

Cultural and Historical

No cultural or historical artifacts or sites have been reported to date.

Issues

Because of the difficulty in access, few if any issues affect management. With the exception of the airstrips, this unit currently experiences no motorized use and little non-motorized use.

There are other issues concerning this unit that apply to the entire public use area. These areawide issues are summarized in Chapter 2 rather than in every unit. Many areawide issues are addressed by draft regulations recently released for public review and comment and now are in the process of being finalized.

Management Intent

The management intent for the Upper Friday Alpine Unit is to manage for low levels of public use and to enhance recreational opportunities by applying management guidelines that apply to the entire public use area. The unit will be managed with an emphasis on enhancing non-motorized opportunities, while mitigating impacts to habitats for fish and wildlife.

Management Guidelines

- (None)

Management Recommendations

- (None)

Facilities Recommendations

- (None)

Public Use Sites

No Public Use Sites have been identified.

1 **Land Use Designation**

2 All state land is co-designated Public Recreation and Wildlife Habitat. All state land will be
3 retained in public ownership.
4

5 **Allowed/Prohibited Uses**

6 All land uses (including commercial recreation) may be authorized except for uses/activities
7 that are designated as “prohibited” in Chapter 4, pp 4 - 4. Uses may be allowed if they are
8 consistent with the legislation, pertinent state laws, regulations, and management guidelines.
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